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## U.S. Engagement with the UN: Advancing Opportunities

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SEPTEMBER 21, 2009

*"The UN is imperfect; but it is also indispensable. There can be no substitute for the  
is no better alternative to sharing the costs and burdens of UN peace operations and  
humanitarian missions around the world."*

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[12, 2009](#)

The United States seeks anew to work through the United Nations in pursuit of enhanced global cooperation. The Obama Administration's approach focuses on re-engagement on multilateral issues with the full range of the United Nations (UN) Member States and renewed commitment to help the UN address common challenges. The U.S. posture of re-engagement was underscored by the re-accession of the United States to the UN Human

this week in New York, the U.S. Administration plans to advance new policies on non-rights and democracy, and the UN budget.

President Obama and Secretary Clinton are participating in several formal and sideline

Council, which will focus on disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. He will also meet with Sub-Saharan leaders to discuss economic and social development and with

and priorities.

**ADVANCING OPPORTUNITIES**



### **Secretary Clinton's Speech in Advance of the United Nations General Assembly**

- The United States will promote an agenda at the opening of the 64th session of the UN General Assembly focused heavily on building international partnerships, promoting nuclear nonproliferation, resolving issues in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan and forging economic development initiatives.

**United States "Ready to Lead Once More" at United Nations** - Building the capacity of fragile states is a major part of our work every day at the United Nations, since it is the UN that is leading the charge in many of the toughest corners of the world. At its best, the UN helps rebuild shattered societies, lay the foundations of democracy and development, and establish conditions in which people can live in dignity and mutual respect.

## **WORLD FREE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS**



**Obama to Lead UN Session on Nonproliferation** - President Obama will chair a high-level meeting of the UN Security Council on nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament when the United Nations convenes for the opening of the General Assembly in September 2009.

### **Nonproliferation, Climate Change Top U.S. Issues for UN Meeting**

- The Obama administration is considering global issues such as climate change and food security to be immediate security challenges, along with more traditional security topics like nonproliferation and arms control, as the U.S. delegation prepares for the 64th UNGA, opening September 15 in New York.

## **U.S. AND UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**



**U.S. Assumes Seat on the UN Human Rights Council** (*Assistant Secretary Esther Brimmer's Remarks Before the High-Level Session of the Human Rights Council, September 14, 2009*) - The United States is pleased to join the rest of our colleagues on the Human Rights Council. It is with a sense of mutual respect that we take our place on the Council, next to the friends and partners we will work with to forge common ground on one of the most fundamental roles of the state: to protect and

advance human rights.

**The United Nations Human Rights Council: Issues for Congress**(*CRS Report for Congress, June 1, 2009, 23 pages*) - On March 15, 2006, the UNGA passed a resolution replacing the Commission on Human Rights with a new Human Rights Council. The UN Secretariat and some governments, including the United States, view the establishment of the Council as a key component of comprehensive UN reform.

## **PHOTO GALLERY**

**The United Nations: Partner in Peace, Stability, Security** - President Obama believes the United Nations can be extraordinarily constructive and an important partner in bringing peace, stability and security to people around the world. The reach, scale and complexity of 21st-century security challenges put unprecedented demands on states and the infrastructure of international cooperation.



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